

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended). The therapeutic method ~~use~~ according to claim ~~± 11~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said SLNs have a mean diameter comprised between 50 and 400 nm, and a polydispersion comprised of between 0.06 and 0.30.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The therapeutic method ~~use~~ according to claim ~~± 11~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said SLNs have an average diameter comprised between 100 and 200 nm and a polydispersion comprised of between 0.10 and 0.20.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The therapeutic method ~~use~~ according to claim ~~± 11~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said SLNs have a pharmacologically active substance content comprised of between 0.1 and 7.0%.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended). The therapeutic method use according to claim ± 11, wherein characterised in that said pharmacologically active substance is selected from the group comprising: amphotericin, miconazole, ganciclovir, saquinavir, acyclovir, famciclovir, vidarabine, idoxuridine, β-interferon, paclitaxel, methotrexate, doxorubicin, angiopoietin 1, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketorolac, piroxicam, flurbiprofen, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, fluorometholone, rimexolone, timolol, betaxolol and acetazolamide.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The therapeutic method use according to claim ± 11, wherein characterised in that said SLNs are prepared by a process wherein:

a) a molten lipid substance containing a drug or its complex is mixed with a mixture comprising water, a surfactant, a cosurfactant and optionally a counterion of the drug, pre-warmed to a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of said lipid substance, thus obtaining a microemulsion having a

temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of said lipid substance;

- b) the microemulsion obtained in step a) is dispersed in water or in an aqueous medium cooled to a temperature comprised between 2 and 5°C, thus obtaining a dispersion of solid lipidic nanoparticles incorporating the drug;
- c) the dispersion obtained in step b) is washed with water or with an aqueous medium by diafiltration with the practically total elimination of the surfactant and the consurfactant;
- d) the dispersion obtained in step c) is dried by lyophilisation or by spray drying or by evaporation, thus obtaining the solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) with the drug incorporated.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The therapeutic method use according to claim 8, wherein characterised in that the microemulsion obtained in step a) is added to a mixture comprising water, a surfactant, a consurfactant and a lipid warmed to a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of the lipid and the mixture thus obtained is dispersed in water

or in an aqueous medium cooled to a temperature comprised of between 2 and 5°C.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The therapeutic method ~~use~~ according to claim 8, wherein characterised in that at the end of step a) a substance suitable for stabilising the SLNs is added selected from the group comprising dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine-PEG, diacyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine-PEG (PEG M. W. 750-2000) and fatty acids pegylated with PEG-methylethers (PEG M.W. 750-2000).

Claim 11 (currently amended). A therapeutic method for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases comprising the intravenous or topical ocular administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising solid lipidic nanoparticles containing a pharmacologically active substance suitable for the treatment of said ophthalmic diseases.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The therapeutic method ~~use~~ according to claim 11, wherein characterised in that the dosage for intravenous administration is an amount of said composition containing to 0.01-5.0 milligrams of active substance per kilogram of body weight.

Claim 13 (currently amended). The therapeutic method according claim 11, wherein characterised in that the dosage for topical ocular administration is an amount of said composition containing to 0.01-5.0 milligrams of active substance for each eye.

Claim 14 (original). A pharmaceutical composition suitable for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases by intravenous or topical ocular administration, consisting essentially of an isotonic aqueous dispersion of solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) having a mean diameter comprised between 50 and 400 nm and polydispersion comprised between 50 and 400 nm and polydispersion comprised between 0.06 and 0.30, a pharmacologically active substance for the treatment of said diseases being incorporated within said SLNs.

Claim 15 (currently amended). The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14, wherein characterised in that said aqueous dispersion contains a viscosizing substance.

Claim 16 (currently amended). The composition according to claim 14, wherein characterised in that said SLNs have a mean

diameter comprised between 100 and 200 nm and polydispersion comprised between 0.10 and 0.20.

Claim 17 (currently amended). The composition according to claim 14, wherein characterised in that for the intravenous administration, said isotonic aqueous dispersion has a concentration of SLNs comprised of between 10 and 250 mg/ml.

Claim 18 (currently amended). The composition according to claim 14, wherein characterised in that for the topical ocular administration, said isonic aqueous dispersion has a concentration of SLNs comprised between 1 and 25% w/v and contains from 0.1 to 0.4% of a viscosizing substance.

Claim 19 (currently amended). The composition according to claim 14, wherein characterised in that said SLNs have a pharmacologically active substance content comprised between 0.1 and 7.0%:

Claim 20 (currently amended). The composition according to claim 14, wherein characterised in that said pharmacologically active substance is selected from the group comprising: amphotericin, miconazole, ganciclovir, saquinavir, acyclovir,

famciclovir, vidarabine, idoxuridine,  $\beta$ -interferon, paclitaxel, methotrexate, doxorubicin, angiopoietin 1, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketorolac, piroxicam, flurbiprofen, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, fluorometholone, rimexolone, timolol, betaxolol e acetazolamide.

Claim 21 (currently amended). Compositions according to claim 14, wherein characterised in that the lipid of said SLNs is selected from the group comprising trilaurine, tricapriloin, tristearine, tripalmitine, capric/caprylic triglycerides, dipalmitine, distearine, glyceryl monostearate, glyceryl palmitostearate, cetylic alcohol, stearyl alcohol, fatty acids having C10-C22 chains, choloesteryl hemisuccinate, cholesteryl butyrate and cholesteryl palmitate.